

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE
MINUTES
FOR
August 7, 2014, 3:00 p.m. Meeting
Legislative Office Building, Room 1C
Hartford, Connecticut**

[The entirety of this meeting was broadcast live on CT-N and is viewable on the Archive at www.ct-n.com . It may also be viewed by clicking on the link below]

<http://ct-n.com/webstream.asp?odID=10565&odTitle=Office%20of%20the%20Victim%20Advocate%20Advisory%20Committee%20August%20Meeting&caption=true>

Members present: Mike Lawlor, Chair; Emily Landers; Len Suzio; Brenda Jones-Barnes; Christy Scott.

Members absent: Dawn Luddy

Chairman Lawlor convened the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Len Suzio moved to accept the draft minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Brenda Jones-Barnes. After a brief discussion the Committee voted unanimously to approve the draft minutes. Christy Scott abstained citing that fact that she did not participate in the August 7, 2014 meeting.

Martin Anderson [DAS] and Joe Olender [OGA] distributed the draft Job Posting and advertisements to be considered by the committee. The committee suggested adding a reference to the fact that the OVA was an independent office to the posting and adding reference to the advocacy role of the VA to the job description.

There was a discussion regarding whether the Victim Advocate could serve on an interim basis pending confirmation by the General Assembly and Chairman Lawlor indicated he would attempt to get an answer to that question.

Len Suzio asked whether there would be enough time to do background checks on potential nominees. Chairman Lawlor explained that the committee members were free to do whatever background checking they thought appropriate in advance of interviews, but that it would be important to respect the confidential nature of the process, especially as it might relate to the current employment status of prospective candidates.

Debra Mainville [DAS] indicated that most candidates are concerned about the confidentiality of the process.

The Committee discussed a deadline for applications and recommended September 3rd.

The Committee discussed the wording on the requirement that candidates must be admitted or eligible to be admitted as attorneys in Connecticut.

Brenda Jones-Barnes moved to approve the posting with the additions recommended by the Committee. Christy Scott seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the posting and advertisement. Emily Landers was out of the room at the time of the vote and did not cast a vote.

The Committee discussed outreach meetings with crime victims and other criminal justice professionals. Chairman Lawlor suggested participating in the August meeting of the Victims Rights Enforcement Advisory Commission. Len Suzio suggested other outreach meetings elsewhere in the state. The Committee discussed procedural complications regarding notice and minutes for meetings of a majority of the Committee and decided that individual members were free to reach out on their own and report back any input gathered.

A meeting with the OVA staff was discussed and a date for that will be scheduled for either after the VREAC meeting or on a separate date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.